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Cease-Fire Developments

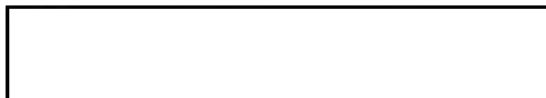
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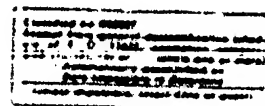
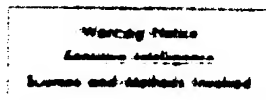
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Cease-Fire Developments

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25X1

CONTENTS

2 July 1973

CAMBODIA.	1
Lon Nol May Be Seriously Ill The Military Situation	
SOUTH VIETNAM	3
Slight Increase in Military Activity	
LAOS.	4
Another Hanoi "Assistance" Agreement	

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CAMBODIA

Lon Nol May Be Seriously Ill

25X1 High Political Council member Sirik Matak told [redacted] yesterday that the President had suffered another "stroke" early on the morning of 2 July. Word of Lon Nol's illness was conveyed to Matak by a Cambodian Army officer, who evidently is a member of the President's entourage. According to Matak, the officer stated that Lon Nol had "almost died," his breathing was quite labored, and his blood pressure was very high. The officer added that the President was ordered to bed for three days of complete rest and that he was forbidden to exert himself physically during that time.

25X1 There has been no confirmation of Lon Nol's illness. Matak is in no position to judge the exact nature of the President's ailment, and it is possible he has merely had an attack of high blood pressure.

[redacted] have long held that the President could have a second stroke at any time even though he has made a generally good recovery from the one in February 1971.

25X1 Matak, meanwhile, apparently is not unduly concerned about the prospects for government stability in the face of Lon Nol's illness. He told [redacted] that he and the two remaining members of the High Political Council could carry on effectively if the President were unable to continue in office.

[redacted]

The Military Situation

Government troops have now cleared a stretch of Route 5 just below the garrison town of Tuk Laak, some 30 miles north of the capital. Insurgent units,

2 July 1973

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however, are still on the road above the town. Communist forces are also ranging along Route 6 near the ferry landing on the Tonle Sap River, but Cambodian Army elements have held on to positions along the road some ten miles east of the river despite several sharp engagements. South of Phnom Penh, government commanders report little progress in securing sections of Routes 3 and 201 because of heavy Communist resistance. To the west, fighting has slackened near Kompong Speu, but some jittery territorial units have abandoned outposts north and south of the town in the past several days. A truck convoy reached Phnom Penh over Route 4 on 2 July.

5X1

2 July 1973

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SECRET

SOUTH VIETNAM

Slight Increase in Military Activity

There has been some increase in fighting during the past few days, mostly in the few areas that are still hotly contested by both sides. The sharpest action has been in Kontum Province, where the government has been using heavier air and artillery to try to recapture two villages west of the provincial capital. There are indications that additional government forces are being moved into the area for another drive against the villages that could start as early as 4 July.

Sporadic clashes were reported in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Quang Nam provinces, in areas where the government is still trying to improve its control. In the southern half of the country, South Vietnamese forces claim to have cleared segments of two roadways north and east of Saigon but have lost another outpost in Chuong Thien Province.

25X1

25X1

2 July 1973

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LAOS

Another Hanoi "Assistance" Agreement

A Lao Communist delegation signed a "medical cooperation" agreement with the North Vietnamese Government in Hanoi late last week, according to the Vietnam News Agency. This is the third "assistance" agreement in the past two months and--like the others--may be designed in part to provide a cloak of legitimacy for a continued North Vietnamese presence in Laos.

25X1

2 July 1973

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